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MONTANA '89er

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
MONTANA CENTENNIAL COMMISSION AND OFFICE

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OFFICIAL CENTENNIAL PARADE

An estimated 40,000 people reviewed the Official Centennial parade in Great Falls Saturday, July 22. Brian Patrick, Centennial Field Operations Manager said the office staff gave out 4,000 Centennial buttons and said he doubted if they were able to supply one-tenth of the people lining the parade route.

Leo Ellingson, Centennial Statehood Director said the very successful parade went off like clockwork, and he had high praise for the organizers, the Cascade Centennial

Happy Birthday, Montana, in the form of a huge cake was one of the floats in the Centennial Parade held in Great Falls July 22.

PLEASE RETURN

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'89ers and Jeff Cuniff of Great Falls who was Centennial parade chairman. The parade was 19 blocks long with no gaps, and took three hours to pass by.

There were 370 parade entries, 100 antique cars, 400 horses. There were entries from 25 communities. In addition to the entries from Montana, there were floats from Calgary and Lethbridge, Alberta, as well as Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Riding on the official float driven by Mark Copenhaver were Iva Kolstad, wife of Lt. Gov. Allen Kolstad, Leo Ellingson and Marilyn Frazier, member of the Centennial Commission.

Cuniff said 65 dignitaries participated in the parade, including Governor Stan Stephens and Mrs. Stephens, State Auditor Andrea Bennett, Attorney General Marc Racicot and Montana Supreme Court Judge Bill Hunt.

The Calgary Expedition Stampede sent 40 members who served breakfast to 3000 parade participants and workers, and furnished entertainment. Accompanying the

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VOL. 4 NO. 6 AUGUST 1989

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Great Montana Centennial Cattle Drive from Roundup to Billings is still the biggest event of the Centennial, and is scheduled for September 4–9. Only big people with big imaginations from a big state would dare plan and pull off such a gigantic project to observe their state's Centennial. It should be the biggest cattle drive in the history of the world.

When you travel outside Montana, and you mention the Centennial, it is surprising how many people all over the country have heard of the cattle drive. It has received international publicity. As a matter of fact, it will receive international participation. People from four countries and 29 states are involved. Cowboys from as far away as Australia and Japan have inquired about heading 'em up and moving 'em out.

As envisioned, a herd of 10,000 cattle, herded by 100 top hands and 4,900 other riders, will make its way from the Musselshell River at Roundup to the Yellowstone River at Billings. That was the original dream. Of course dreams sometimes surpass reality, but any great project must start with an optimistic dream.

The herd will include longhorns like the ones Nelson Story brought north from Texas in 1886. A special brand, a stylized M over 89, will mark all the cattle which can be auctioned at trail's end.

More than 2,800 people have signed up to ride in the drive, which is to be led by 300 wagons, each carrying between three and six people.

Imagine the logistics involved. There are a lot of skeptics out there who doubt if it will ever happen successfully, but I'm confident the people in charge know what they are doing, and I offer my congratulations to the Latigo Corporation for a super organization.

Allen C. Kolstad

Lt. Governor Allen C. Kolstad
Chairman, Centennial Commission

CENTENNIAL WAGON TRAIN ARRIVES IN HELENA

In a ceremony on the state capitol steps, Lt. Governor Allen Kolstad welcomed the Centennial Wagon Train on its arrival in Helena July 3. He told the crowd gathered for the occasion, "If you really want to learn what a wagon train trip is like you have to ask the trail weary folks who are with the Centennial Wagon Train today. These saddle-weary, seat-bruised adventurers have been on the trail. They know some of the hardships that can occur on a journey of that nature. Of course, they weren't as isolated and didn't have to face as many of the life-threatening dangers as those who came west 100 years ago, but they have experienced much of what the early settlers experienced, and I know it has enriched their lives."

Kolstad chided the western movie versions of wagon trains and their thrilling adventures, and of the trains forming a hurried circle as the Indians rushed screaming and shouting down upon them. In fact, most records show that the wagon trains were the first opportunity that the Indian and White had to become familiar with each other, to trade, to share knowledge about the trail and to learn that circumstances are the only true difference between men. He encouraged people to read about the early days of Montana, especially journals and diaries written by early day settlers.

To the early settler the wagon train meant a chance to start life over, with greater opportunity in the promised land west of the Mississippi.

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MONTANA CENTENNIAL OFFICE

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The monthly Eighty-Niner presents news and views in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Montana's statehood in 1989.
For information call 444-1989

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He continued, the wagon train was also a challenging, spirit-breaking, nerve-rending, experience that left tragic reminders along the way that some people just weren't meant to experience life in the Big Sky Country. Storms, floods, prairie fires, disease and accidents of all sorts claimed the lives of many who were looking for a better place to live.

The Wagon Train received a warm welcome, not only from the large crowd waiting at the Capitol, and from Lt. Governor Kolstad, but also from Western District Congressman Pat Williams and Helena Mayor Russ Ritter. All three speakers applauded the efforts of all the riders and the Montana Draft Horse and Mule Association which was responsible for organizing the Wagon Train.

There were 200 participants who covered the 250 miles of the wagon train trip from Bannack to Helena.

Robert Clark, Wagon Master, and Wayne Tichenor, Trail Boss, received congratulations and commemorative belt buckles from both Lt. Governor Kolstad, Montana Centennial Commission chairman, and Steve Hankey, Regional Sales Manager for Rainier Brewing Co., a major sponsor of the Wagon Train. Marlene Teague, secretary-treasurer of the Montana Draft Horse and Mule Association and Leslie Clark, secretary of the Montana Centennial Wagon Train, also received a round of applause for their organizing efforts.

All the hard work and preparation paid off in a big way as the 50 wagons safely and successfully reached their final night camp. Participants gave many compliments to the organizers for the research done on the trail. Of the 250 miles, less that 20 were traveled on blacktop. The route took the wagons over the Continental Divide, up and down the steep gravelly mountains, along the high foothills of the Tobacco Roots, and up the Amazon Hill close to the little town of Wickes, on the 24 day trail to Helena.

These wagons were not new models that had just been recently purchased. Almost all were from the turn of the century and had been painstakingly rebuilt by the owner. Along the way, repairs were required on several wagons, but with the help of neighboring ranchers, wheels, tongues, and wagon boxes were all fixed and the wagons were able to continue on their way. If a sick or sore horse was unable to continue, arrangements were made to borrow a horse from another driver until the horse was able to work again.

The travelers encountered all kinds of weather from snow to intense heat along with hail and wind storms. It was agreed that this year's cool June weather was a real bonus for the horses and that the trip may not have been possible if extreme heat had prevailed.

Many riders suffered from bouts of the flu and some even contacted pneumonia and tick fever. A teamster from Idaho suffered a heart attack while in Willow Creek, but was able to receive immediate medical attention and is now recuperating at home.

In all 30 wagons made the entire trip from Bannack to Helena. Of these wagons, 25 were from Montana while 2 had come from California and 3 from Idaho. No less than 40 wagons were traveling on the trail at all times and in all 300 people and 75 wagons participated in the entire 24 day event.

Some hardy souls traveled even further than from Bannack to Helena. Jim Lotan, Wagon Master of the Bitterroot Centennial Wagon Train, and his wife Ruth, along with Carol Tichenor of Whitehall, Patrick McCarron and Kathy Meyer of Stevensville, and George Woolsey of Victor, traveled all the way from Stevensville to Helena, a distance of 400 miles and a trip that took over 5 weeks.

Cotton Riley, of Richfield, Idaho, drove his mules all the way from his home to Bannack, adding an additional 150 miles to his journey. Jim and Debra Deck didn't bother to trailer their horses and wagon home like most everyone else, they just hitched up and drove the wagon back to Whitehall!

The Montana Centennial Wagon Train not only received a warm welcome in Helena, but also in every single town it traveled through. The Wagon Train went through Dillon, Virginia City, Ennis, Pony, Willow Creek, Boulder, Jefferson City, Montana City and Helena and in each town a special celebration had been planned. The Wagon Train became the occasion for numerous barbecues, pancake breakfasts,

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MONTANA WRITERS' PROJECT ANTHOLOGY

Faded Hoof Prints—Bygone Dreams is the title of a Centennial book published by the Powder River Historical Society of Broadus, Montana. The book contains stories from Montana's Greatest Livestock Frontier, Powder River Country. It contains 300 pages and the stories are from the Montana Writer's Project of the Works Project Administration from the 1860s to the 1920s. It was compiled by Maude L. Beach and edited by Robert L. Thaden, Jr.

The stories are from micro-film records that are being preserved and stored in Denver depicting life as it was when the southeastern part of Montana was being settled. The stories were collected by two WPA employees under the Montana Writer's project in the late 1930s and early 1940s.

The stories are described as pertinent to the Centennial because they relate in the interviewees' own words their lives and experiences during that part of Montana's history when the near extinction of buffalo transpired and the cattle drives from the south impacted and influenced our state's economy and commerce.

Many personal observances are given to these experiences, some humorous, some tragic in their quest for money or eking out an existence. Some references are also made to the ongoing conflict between cattlemen and sheepmen.

A copy of the book may be obtained by writing Powder River Historical Society, Box 575, Broadus, Montana 59317. Please enclose $20.00.

RAILROAD SHOW

Railroads were crucial in the development of Montana. In an attempt to demonstrate this well-known fact, a railroad show is scheduled for September 10 at the Rodeway Inn in Billings. Collectors of railroad memorabilia will display and sell items from their model railroad collections. There will be specific displays concerning Montana railroads.

A nominal $1 admission fee will be charged, and profits, if any, will be used for future shows.

Parade, continued

group was the Calgary Stampede Queen, Bonny Wallace. The Calgary Stampede mascot, Harry the Horse, was also present.

An ice cream social and awards ceremony followed the three-hour parade. For the third consecutive time in parades held in Great Falls, the Great Falls Advertising Federation won the top parade award. Previously they won the top award in the Territorial parade in 1975, and the Great Falls Centennial Parade in 1984. The award is all the more significant because it is believed the 1989 Montana Centennial parade held Saturday was the largest parade ever held in the state of Montana.

There were nine divisions in the parade and the Western division was won by Pa'u Waimenalo of Hawaii, featuring 12 riders on horses decked with traditional Hawaiian leis. Five female riders, also well decorated, represented the five islands of Hawaii. Cuniff said this entry was especially popular with the large crowd.

Lincoln, Montana took the best public service entry contest with a float entitled "Main Street 1889." The Youth contest was led by Livingston's "Razzle Dazzle" drill team made up of youths 5 to 13 years old.

Following the awards ceremonies was the Big Sky Day at Malmstrom Air Force Base. An estimated 40,000 people attended. There was also an aerial demonstration by antique airplanes. Saturday evening's fireworks were spectacular, according to all accounts, and the Centennial Ball was a smashing event.

Cuniff said it was truly a statewide event, not just a Great Falls parade, and extended his congratulations to the people of Montana for taking part. He said he has been working on parade preparations for 1 1/2 years, and expressed appreciation for the cooperation he has received. He also remarked on how well the people of Montana are responding to the Centennial and said, "If it's worth doing, it's worth doing well."

Parade photographs by John Hutchison, Chester

Just a few of the 400 horses that took part in the Centennial Parade.

American Foreign Wars veterans march in the Centennial Parade in Great Falls.

Old Glory, and long may she wave. This large flag was carried by numerous people in the Centennial Parade.

"PILLARS OF THE PAST" PARTY

The Centennial year was celebrated at St. John's Lutheran Home in Billings on July 30th with a special event honoring Yellowstone County's centenarians. Family and friends of these special seniors were invited to observe the recognition. Dwight McKay, chairman of the Yellowstone County Commissioners made the presentations.

Kristin Rapacz, administrator of St. John's–Rimrock, stated "This annual Family Day event is in honor of the state of Montana's Centennial and gives St. John's another opportunity to recognize our residents and other seniors in Yellowstone County who have reached the 100 year milestone in birthdays. Nearly twenty centenarians have been located; however, due to health reasons some were not able to attend."

St. John's staff also awarded certificates to their residents who are Montana natives. "Surprisingly, nearly 60 of the 300 residents are native to this wonderful state," Rapacz commented. Families of the staff and residents attended. Lawn games, family portraits, refreshments and socializing were the focus.

The residents organized a terrific heritage display with many unique antiques in the hobby room. Each item was marked with a description, date, and donor's name.

This event was sanctioned by the Montana Centennial office.

READING SERVICE POSTER PREPARED

Western Montana Radio and Reading Service is preparing a promotional poster as a sanctioned Centennial project. The poster will describe the service offered to the blind and print handicapped, and denote the 10th anniversary of the Service. The poster will be distributed at Visual Services, pharmacies, eye doctor offices, Senior Companion programs, Montana Association for the Blind, Montana Library for the Blind, in the coverage areas, including Missoula, Bigfork, Butte, Helena, Great Falls, and White Sulphur Srings.

This is a non-profit project, and any donations will be used to purchase equipment, expand or upgrade services, and offset administrative costs.

RELIGIOUS HERITAGE DAYS

Governor Stan Stephens has proclaimed November 1–8 as "1989 Centennial Religious Heritage Days," and has asked all churches in Montana to observe these days in their worship services. In his proclamation Governor Stephens said:

STATE OF MONTANA

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in the development of many of the communities of Montana, churches were among the first buildings erected; and

WHEREAS, the growth of these communities was centered around church activities, and the influence of these churches was a strong factor in the lives of the pioneers; and

WHEREAS, faith in God has played a strong role in the development of not only Montana but also the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Centennial Commission has resolved that the first week in November shall be known as "1989 Centennial Montana Religious Heritage Days",

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STAN STEPHENS, Governor of the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim the dates of November 1 - 8, as

"1989 Centennial Montana Religious Heritage Days"

I urge the public to take advantage of these days by attending the church of their choice. I also urge congregations in Montana to observe the Montana Statehood Centennial in their worship services during this time.

THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF MONTANA — ORO Y PLATA

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF MONTANA to be affixed. DONE at the City of Helena, the Capital, this 29th day of June in the year of our LORD, one thousand nine hundred and eighty-nine.

STAN STEPHENS
Governor of Montana

ATTEST:
MIKE COONEY
Secretary of State

The Centennial Office will attempt to mail a copy of the proclamation, printed on parchment paper, to every church in Montana, to post in the narthex. However, the Centennial mailing list of churches is not complete. Any church that has not received a copy may obtain one simply by writing the Centennial Office, P.O. Box 1989, State Capitol, Helena, MT 59620. Also sent will be a list of suggestions which churches may find helpful in their Centennial observation, and a sheet of the Centennial logos, which churches are entitled to use in printings connected with the Religious Heritage in Montana Days observance.

Wagon Train, continued

potlucks, and square dances and as all the riders soon realized, Montanans really know how to roll out the welcome mat.

For many of the participants, a truly inspiring memory will be the crowd of almost 4000 that came out to cheer them on in the little town of Willow Creek.

Of the 21 campsites, 15 were located on private ground. Some of these generous ranchers such as the Art Christensens of Dillon, the Earl Knightens of Ennis, and the Steve

Lt. Governor Allen Kolstad presents Robert Clark, Wagon Train wagonmaster, with a Centennial belt buckle at the welcoming ceremony in front of the Capitol July 3.

Jacksons of Norris, even took on the additional task of feeding the entire Wagon Train. Enough thanks cannot be given to these generous townspeople and ranchers who gave so much of their time to make this event a success.

Wagon Train organizers are pleased to report that the Montana Centennial Wagon Train has also been a financial success. Thanks to a grant from the State Centennial Commission, sponsorship from Rainer Brewing Co., and the sales of Wagon Train commemoratives, the Montana Centennial Wagon Train will be able to reimburse the participants for the money they spent on hay to make the trip.

Without the spirit and cooperation of all the participants, the Montana Centennial Wagon Train would not have been possible. It was at great personal and financial expense that they met the challenge of the trail. These people gave heartily of themselves in honor of Montana's Centennial. The Montana Draft Horse and Mule Association is proud to have organized this successful Centennial project and we salute all the participants — Montana's newest pioneers!

50 covered wagons may never circle up in front of the State Capitol again, but rest assured the Montana Centennial Wagon Train will live on in the memories of the thousands of people who had a chance to see this impressive sight.

BALLOONIST CONQUERS ODDS

Aeronaut Sam Montoya beat—no, annihilated—the odds Sunday morning, June 25, winning a 1989 centennial Chevrolet pickup for pinpoint accuracy in his balloon flight.

It is considered rare that balloonists starting from more than three miles out can pilot their crafts so finely that they are able to pluck a key ring from atop a 25-foot pole.

Montoya has been piloting hot air balloons for only about two years, and he has never been in a key grab event. He said he has participated in similar club accuracy contests, but "never anything this serious."

To top it all off, Montoya's was the first balloon to launch that Sunday morning south of Miles City, and he was the first to reach the field. Many balloonists hang back to see what the wind is going to do to the other balloons, which are impossible to actually steer.

Shortly after launch, the ecstatic Montoya recalled, he thought he was in bad shape and would wind up about a mile west of the pole site in Mathis Meadows.

However, he caught an east wind, and as he drew close he knew he would at least reach the field.

With a considerable breeze moving him forward and a smoke bomb showing him the surface wind direction, he swooped in and grabbed the keys in a moment that seemed almost incomprehensible to him.

"I felt like the world stopped," he said. Then he landed the required 1,500-plus feet away, in the center of the track at the Centra.

The key grab can be a frustrating event, with pilots coming within inches of the keys. There was unanimous agreement that having a key grab winner was one of the best things that could have happened to the Montana Centennial Balloon Rally in addition to the almost flawless weather.

Co-chairman Kathy Schlepp said, "I'm so excited. And to think that guy (Montoya) won."

She noted there was one landowner whose horses were spooked by the noise from a balloon's propane burner.

Sponsors paid $500 per balloon to help defray such costs as lodging, travel, propane and prizes.

(This article is excerpted from a longer article by Gerald Anglum of the *Miles City Star*)

Hot air balloons over Miles City during the state sanctioned Balloon Rally held June 23–25.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Since this is our Centennial year, we have a unique opportunity to participate in something that will only happen once in our lifetime. This means we must make it a special year...a year to be remembered for a long time to come and you and thousands of Montanans and visitors to Montana are doing just that.

If anybody thinks that Montana people aren't involved in their Centennial they should follow me around for a week and participate in the various activities that are taking place. Almost every town and village in Montana is pulling out all the stops to celebrate our Centennial. Last Saturday I attended a parade and celebration in Monarch, a town in Cascade County with a population of 65...over 1,000 persons attended the parade and full day of events ... One of 1,200 events and products our state office has sanctioned this year. The Centennial means different things to different people. To some it means a glorification of the past, of the cowboys, the logger, the Native Americans, the miners, the homesteaders. To others it means parades, balloons. fireworks, bell ringing and recording our history in many of the local communities. When you look over the events schedule for this year...you can't help be in awe of the variety of events that are going on. This is a birthday party in which everyone may participate.

To Montana, our Centennial represents a golden opportunity to increase awareness of our history, send a positive image nationwide, even enhance our business climate, as we play host to hundreds of thousands of tourists this year.

Our Centennial is attracting international attention, all the major networks, National Public Radio and Radio Free Europe with 34 million listeners are sending or have teams in the state covering the events. Uncounted national publications have asked for and been furnished materials so that they can write about our Centennial. Our office has responded to thousands of requests from all over the world. Perhaps most of you are aware that this Centennial celebration is being shared with Washington, and North and South Dakota this year. Idaho and Wyoming are celebrating their Centennials next year and we are working together on several joint projects. One project is the documents and traveling displays for all of our states. These will include the documents that lead up to statehood for the individual states. These exhibits will be prepared by the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D. C. so we feel they will be superb exhibits. They will be funded by the minting of a special coin for the northwest area states.

In celebrating our Centennial we have one noticeable difference from our sister states...Montana did not fund its Centennial. The state of Washington appropriated about $8,000,000, Wyoming $1,000,000, the others in varying amounts. Our Centennial has been funded by the sales of Centennial license plates which certainly have not been as brisk as we would like them. Statewide only 5.4% of the registered vehicles have Centennial plates.

The Centennial office also receives a percentage of the sanctioned products that are sold. That's how the Centennial has been funded. Although we have granted $500,000 to various projects...we still had $1,200,000 in requests that were not considered because of lack of funds.

In spite of this the people of Montana have made this a

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Several cars in the Montana Centennial Classic Car Tour

CLASSIC CAR TOUR

The Montana Centennial Classic Car Tour sponsored by the High Plains Classics Car Club of Miles City and Eastern Montana was a tremendous success. The group left Miles City on June 18 following a breakfast and driver's meeting at the Miles City Eagles Club. They stopped in Sidney for a lunch put on by the Sidney Jaycees and spent their first night in Glasgow. Some of the group attended the theatre in Fort Peck, while others toured the Dam. Monday the group headed to Great Falls with a stop in Havre for lunch. Tuesday they parted, with some taking the Going-to-the-Sun Highway in Glacier Park and others traveling from East to West Glacier.

On Wednesday the club drove to Deer Lodge and toured the old prison and the Towe Ford Museum. That evening they arrived in Butte for a tour of the Copper King Mansion. Thursday morning the cars were paraded through Butte, ending at the Mining Museum where the cars were on display. By noon most of the cars were headed to Helena for the Awards Banquet. The tour concluded with stops in Bozeman, Laurel and finally Miles City, where they were met by a large group of area residents welcoming them home. The tour tied in with the Centennial Balloon Rally that was held in Miles City that weekend. The Miles City Shrine Bugatti Patrol and Whammy Wagon lead the parade with Balloon chase vehicles and local old cars joining the Tour Cars down Main Street and then back to Riverside Park for a barbeque.

The cars in the Centennial Classic Car Tour ranged from 1930 to 1971. Two 1930 Fords were on trailers, but the 1934 Chevrolet driven by Rita Philbrick, 81, of Forsyth, traveled the entire distance with only a slight clutch adjustment in Helena. Rita and her passenger, Max Blakesley, also of Forsyth, were enthusiastic participants, putting the little car through its paces and showing up two 1950s cars that couldn't make the entire trip. There were no other major mechanical problems and all drivers and their passengers reported having a marvelous time. The 26 cars that participated came from all areas of Montana and two were from Williston, ND.

The club hopes to make this an annual event, with plans for participating in Idaho's Centennial next year. Anyone interested in next year's tour can write or call: Bobbi Askin, 406 S. Jordan, Miles City, MT 59301, (406) 232-6133, evenings.

From the Director, continued

grassroots effort and communities across the state have dug in and found ways to fund their celebrations locally. I meet regularly with the executive directors of the other five states and I can assure you that we are not taking a back seat to any of the other states in this Centennial year.

Our schools have taken up the challenge by joining in the Centennial with special pageants, art projects, and the study of community history. The goal of our Centennial office is to have every community and every school participate by holding some kind of event, doing some kind of project, and right now we know that most of them are already on board.

We are also planning a statewide program for participation of all Montana churches in the final days before our actual birthday on November 8th.

Population wise, we have always been a small state ... but that smallness has already been a great blessing because it has made us a family.

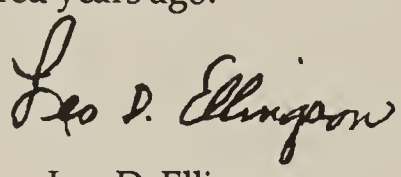
On the maps, Montana is so many square miles between boundary lines ... but in reality we are a family. And the greatest end result we could imagine from this Centennial year is already starting to happen.

The grassroots, volunteer emphasis of the Centennial is bringing this family of Montana closer together, just like the family reunions of years ago.

The pride we feel for our past can become the catalyst for the next 100 years of progress...because, in this great state and in this great nation, the future is not determined for us.

During the remaining months, all of us will have plenty of opportunity to reflect on what makes Montana special, on why it is unique among the fifty states.

By the time November 8th rolls around, and we hold our final Centennial party in Helena, we'll all be more aware that our "Old Montana" is just as fresh and spirited as it was a hundred years ago.



Leo D. Ellingson
Centennial Director

CENTENNIAL BUS IN MISSOULA

Mountain Line Missoula City Bus and KPAX TV are jointly promoting the "Centennial Express." One of the buses will be painted in a Centennial theme and will be operated throughout the Mountain Line, in Missoula, from mid-June to October 31st. Any person riding the bus will ride for free. KPAX will produce a 30-second commercial and run it 6 times a day until October 31. The official Montana Centennial logo will be on the rear panel of the bus, used for advertising and promotional material. This is a sanctioned Centennial event.

INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE TO BE RECORDED

Victoria Westermark, formerly of Shelby, Montana and now of Santa Monica, California, has scripting and is in the process of videotaping the Northern Cheyenne sign language as a part of the Lady Blackrobe Project, a sanctioned Centennial project.

As an educational and cultural event, the Lady Blackrobe project will videotape several portraits of the last of the old Northern Cheyenne sign talkers and the Indian sign talking language. The non-profit Lady Blackrobe project has been researching and developing a dramatic film with the Cheyenne since 1985 about the Ursuline sisters' arrival into their tribe in southeast Montana in 1884. Work with experts on Cheyenne within the community and Dull Knife Junior College in Lame Deer has led to this joint cultural preservation project.

Unfortunately the sign talking language has not been passed down, and when these elder talkers pass away they will take their accumulated knowledge with them unless efforts are made to preserve this fast disappearing culture. The most recognized sign talker is Mr. Donald Hollowbreast, a community treasure who, as a journalist, has written and published cultural news of the Cheyenne people for 35 years. Mr Hollowbreast is deaf and has communicated in the old Indian sign language for most of his life.

Considerable planning will be involved to develop and outline the material the Cheyenne most want to cover in terms of stories or legends. Many of the people involved are elderly and will have special needs.

The development and videotaping will take place around Lame Deer and will involve extensive collaborative efforts between the Lady Blackrobe Project, Cheyenne elders and educators, administration and staff at Dull Knife Memorial College (the tribal college), and the additional talent and resources of television station KUSM at Montana State University in Bozeman. The completed tapes are intended to serve both Indian and non-Indian populations throughout the state and will be broadcast over KUSM in Bozeman. They will also be made available for showing to the growing network of low-powered rural television stations in Montana, and through KOBL in Lame Deer. Additionally, copies of the tapes will be available through community outreach programs and in selected libraries across Montana. The videotaping is scheduled to take place during the summer of 1989.

A Centennial Ball was held July 3 in Lewistown, sponsored by the Fergus County Centennial '89ers. Costumes shown at right actually belonged to the great-aunt of Linda Majerus, center. Wanda Lucas, left, and Darlene Hodik, right, also wore dresses belonging to Linda's great-aunt.

Those attending the Ball (called "the social event of the century") wore costumes that were home made and rented, but many outfits were vintage clothing right from the attic—family heirlooms.

Best Costumes of the Centennial Ball were: Best Woman, Barb Knox (black dress); Best Man, Charlie Vaughn (carrying 75-year old mail pouch); Best Couples, Wes and Linda Gibbs (left), and Denise and Garland Goodwyn (right).

Central Montanans dressed in authentic dress took part in the Grand March of the Lewistown Centennial Ball.

Photos by Cindy Youde,
Lewistown News Argus.

MARIAS PASS MONUMENT MOVING

A monument to Theodore Roosevelt was moved July 17 from the center of Highway 2 at Marias Pass.

An area was set aside for spectators between 9 and 11 a.m. as the memorial was lifted slightly and wheeled on railroad tracks to its new location.. A trench was dug so the foundation was moved along with the monument.

The 50-yard move took about an hour. Traffic was delayed as the Montana Highway Patrol directed traffic around the monument.

The monument was dedicated in 1930 to mark completion of the last link on U.S. Highway 2, the "Roosevelt International Highway," extending 4,060 miles from Portland, Maine to Portland, Oregon. More miles of the highway are in Montana—746 of them—than in any other state.

The 60-foot-high monument is an obelisk, a pillar tapering to a pyramid, made of concrete faced with granite. It honors Theodore Roosevelt's contributions to forest conservation.

But seven of 13 traffic accidents at Marias Pass from 1979 to 1987 may have been related to the way traffic was routed around the monument, said Tim Love of the Lewis and Clark National Forest's Choteau office when the Forest Service announced plans to move the monument nearly three years ago.

The monument is being moved to the south side of the highway, where other monuments to "Slippery Bill" Morrison and John F. Stevens will be placed. Morrison was a colorful Marias Pass resident who donated the land where the Roosevelt Monument was placed.

A statue of Stevens, who discovered and then surveyed Marias Pass for the Great Northern Railway, has been restored by Browning sculptor Bob Scriver. Burlington Northern and the United Transportation Union paid for the restoration. The statue was formerly located across the Burlington Northern mainline near the Summit Depot.

A memorial to the Blackfeet may also be placed at the site.

Since 1985 the Forest Service, National Park Service, Montana Department of Highways, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the Blackfoot Tribe have worked cooperatively together to improve the safety considerations. A dedication service is planned for next summer. The project is a sanctioned Centennial project.

Final preparations for moving the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial out of Highway 2 at Marias Pass July 19. The memorial is now 150 feet away in a square which will contain memorials to John Stevens, who surveyed Marias Pass for the Great Northern Railway, and "Slippery" Bill Morrison, who donated the land where the memorial was placed. (Bert Lindler Photo)

PACKHORSE RACE

The 6th Annual World Championship Packhorse Race will be held at McLeod, Saturday, August 26 beginning at 7:30 a.m. It is a sanctioned Centennial event which emphasizes the art and skill of horsemanship and packing. A record crowd is expected this year.

Those who enter compete against time, horsemanship and packing abilities in the old time method. Two men and three horses start in a small arena. The horses are slick to halter. The men must saddle two of the horses and pack the third with three sacks of horse cake and one dozen eggs, The pack will weigh 160 pounds, and the packers must have the job done in 10 minutes or they are eliminated from competition.

Next, the contestants must pack through two miles of mountainous terrain. Points are deducted from their score if any of the eggs are broken. There will be veterinarians along the way to check the horses very carefully. No horse abuse is permitted. This is not an endurance contest for horses, but a contest in horsemanship and packing.

There will be a calcutta, August 25, the day before the race, when spectators will have an opportunity to wager on the events.

The event is sponsored by the World Championship Pack Horse Race Association in Big Timber. Larry Lahren, the director, has said that white Montana started with pack horses.

Events are scheduled for women and youth.

NBC WEATHERMAN, WILLARD SCOTT IN HELENA

Willard Scott, surrounded by admirers. Left to right: John Radeck, KTVH; Gov. Stan Stephens; Scott; Helena Mayor Russ Ritter; and a group of boys and girls who got out of bed early in the morning for the occasion.

Willard Scott, NBC's traveling weatherman was well received and seemed to enjoy himself immensely when he appeared in front of the Centennial floral display at the state capitol Friday, July 21 at 5 a.m. A crowd estimated at 500 greeted the popular broadcaster for the first segment, but before he was through, about 6:45 a.m., the crowd swelled to an estimated 1100. Four segments of the show were aired on national television, and viewed by an estimated nine million people.

Scott appeared in Centennial dress, and refereed a mock argument between Marcus Daly and William Clark, copper kings, over the location of the state capital, Anaconda vs. Helena.

Scott was also purified in an Indian ceremony performed by Eddie Barbeau. When informed that it was a purification ceremony, Scott remarked, "I need that." Wagonmaster Keith Horne was interviewed by Scott, as were many others who came forward to greet him. Governor Stan Stephens presented Scott with the official Centennial anthology, *The Last Best Place*. Stephens told Scott he was the greatest Centennial event of the day.

Not to be outdone by any politician, Scott toured the crowd, shaking hands with as many people as possible, even receiving kisses from some of the ladies.

He was also greeted by Helena Mayor Russ Ritter, who appeared on one of the four weather segments on NBC during the visit. Just before one of the segments, Scott lost his weather report. After searching his pockets diligently for the report, without success, he never lost his cool, and continued to be his natural, jovial self. He seemed to ad lib through it very nicely.

Willard Scott smokes the peace pipe in purification ceremonies.

Governor Stan Stephens and Willard Scott exchange greetings when Scott visited Helena.

BALL OF THE CENTURY IN THE STATE CAPITOL

Historical Note:

At 10:40 a.m. November 8, 1889, Governor Joseph K. Toole and other Territory political leaders received a telegram from President Benjamin Hdrrison that Montana's 20-year quest to be accepted into the Union was finally realized. Amid congratulatory cheers and general merry-making, Montana became the 41st state.

It was quickly suggested by political and community leaders that we should plan for a big ball to be held at Colonel Broadwater's newly opened Hotel and Natatorium; and build a temporary floor over the natatorium pool. This would ensure a large enough area for a celebration of this importance.

Although newspaper accounts are sketchy, apparently a crisis in our new state government resulted in the plans for the extravagant statehood celebrations being sidetracked and ultimately dropped.

However, plans are in the final stages for a Statehood Ball and Birthday Celebration to be held in the State Capitol on November 8, 1989. Yes, that's correct, for the first time ever, a ball and celebration will take place in the most appropriate and beautiful building in Montana, the Capitol.

Imagine if you will, people dressed in period gowns and evening coats arriving at the State Capitol in horse drawn carriages while fireworks are lighting the sky on an adjacent hill.

It will truly be an opportunity to step back in time to relive the grandeur and excitement as Montanans were taking their rightful place in a robust and rapidly growing state full of adventure and opportunities for all.

The first floor of the Capitol will be decorated in a "Broadwater Natatorium" theme with an abundance of plants and trellises. The space will primarily serve as a lounge area with plenty of tables and chairs, where one can get refreshments and visit with neighbors and friends.

Of course, the focal point will be in the rotunda area and adjoining hallways which will serve as the ballroom for the evening. People will be able to look down from the decorated balconies as ladies in elegant Victorian gowns and men in formal coats dance to music by the Helena Big Band.

Then if there is a desire for quieter moments, people can adjourn to the beautiful Governor's reception room and visit with friends over the sounds of chamber music in the background.

The third floor of the Capitol has four major rooms that may be utilized for the celebration.

In the House Chambers, a "Centennial Harmony" will be performed by Rob Quist and Jack Gladston accompanied by the Great Northern Band. Onlookers will be able to sit in the balconies, rest their feet and enjoy the music before moving over to the Senate Chamber to listen to the Montana Chorale performance.

Retreating to the east side of the Rotunda, musical activities are planned for both the Old Supreme Court Chambers and the Old Senate Library area.

Elected public officials will be asked to participate, and where appropriate, open their offices to greet the public.

As you can see, this event is more than just a ball. It truly is a "once in a lifetime" celebration that will provide a variety of entertainment, including dancing. Surely it will be one that you won't want to miss.

Plans are that tickets for the Centennial Ball and Reception will be made available locally beginning around the Labor Day weekend. Ticket costs will be $12.50 per individual or $25 per couple. Watch for announcements in your local newspaper regarding the location and contact person to acquire tickets in your area.

So mark your calendar for Wednesday, November 8th, 1989 and we'll see you at the State Capitol in Helena for the Celebration of the Century as we are ushering out a most successful Centennial Year.

For further information, contact Keith Kelly, Capital City '89ers at 442-4120.

RED EYE AGAIN

"Gimme a shot of red eye," drawled the tall, handsome stranger, the hero of a thousand westerns. The bartender's hand trembled as he poured. Here was an hombre to be reckoned with.

The scene of this melodrama is not Montana Territory in the 1880s. It's Montana today. And as everyone knows, there's no shortage of tall, handsome heroes in Montana. But finally, after all these years, our Montana heroes (or heroines) can once again enjoy a shot of red eye at their favorite saloon.

Old Montana Red Eye, an Official Centennial Whiskey, is now available in state liquor stores. The 100-proof, six-year-old, straight Bourbon Whiskey is distributed by Montana Distillers of Helena.

The Red Eye retails for $15 a bottle, with $1.40 of each sale going to the Montana Centennial Office to be used to offset costs of the Statehood Centennial Celebration.

For more information, please contact a Montana State Liquor Store or the Centennial Office at 444-1989.

ANTIQUE AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION ATTENDS BIG SKY DAY

Under the auspices of the Malmstrom Historical Foundation, the Montana Antique Aircraft Association brought eight antique aircraft to Great Falls for the Centennial Parade and Big Sky Day. These aircraft flew over the parade and landed at Malmstrom AFB where they were observed on the ground. All of the aircraft were built before 1947 and the oldest was manufactured in 1929. The aircraft and sponsors follow:

One of the eight antique aircraft that took part in the fly-over of the Montana Centennial parade in Great Falls July 22.

Aircraft	Sponsor	Owner
1929 Kari-Keen	McCullom RV's & Kaufmans Menswear	Frank E. Bass *Moore, MT*
1932 Fleet Bi-plane	Cellular One	Wayne Edsall *Bozeman, MT*
1942 Stearman PT 17	Sports City Cyclery	John Brennan *Darby, MT*
1943 Tiger Moth	First Liberty C. U.	Bud Hall *Bozeman, MT*
1944 Staggerwing Beech	Rice Motors	Lindey Lindemer *Seeley Lake, MT*
1945 J 3 Piper Cub	Great Falls Gas Co. & Montana Power Co.	Lisle Wood *Butte, MT*
1946 MK III "Argus"	Sletten Construction Co. & Devine & Asseltine	Mike Mulroney *Helena, MT*
1946 Fairchild 24	Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp.	Ray Sanders *Kalispell, MT*

CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE TREE PROJECT

"Improve Montana, Plant a Centennial Commemorative Tree" has been described by Montana Centennial Executive Director Leo Ellingson as a lasting legacy, and he urged Centennial committees all over Montana to support the project. The remarks were made at a meeting held in Helena July 12. Ellingson spoke of a similar project in North Dakota which has been underway for three years. The North Dakota plan calls for planting 100 million trees and shrubs by the year 2000. Buckshot Hofner, who is the North Dakota Centennial Executive Director, is happy to see Montana is also interested in such a project and has offered to come to Montana and give Montana the benefit of experience they have gained over the three years the program has been underway in North Dakota.

Ellingson spoke of the grass roots nature of the Centennial organization in Montana, and asked, "When the Centennial celebration is over, where is the legacy?" If the Centennial enthusiasm could be extended to a 10-year tree-planting project, the legacy would be apparent for years, perhaps centuries to come.

Walter Anderson, temporary chairman of Improve Montana, Plant a Centennial Tree project called and presided over the meeting which was attended by representatives of the Centennial, University of Montana, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of Agriculture, City of Helena, U.S. Forest Service, Montana State University, Garden Clubs, Department of State Lands and others.

Anderson spoke of the loss of trees in the past year due to fires, dry years, and devastating winters, and he asked every segment of society to get involved in planting trees during the next 10 years. He mentioned Arbor Day, school class reunions, graduations and other times when the commemorative trees might be planted.

At this time there is no state funding available for the project, but it was pointed out that the Montana Centennial has the lowest budget of any of the states observing Centennials this year. In spite of this, the grass roots people of Montana have made the Centennial a tremendous success. If planting a commemorative tree can receive similar support over the next 10 years, the project will also be a tremendous success.

Roger Bergmeier, Chief Nursery and Grounds Bureau of the Forestry Division of the Department of State Lands said one-third of the schools participated in a project to plant Ponderosa Pines, and he said this program could probably be expanded. He offered technical support. George Evans of the Montana State University Department of Plant and Soil Science, also offered technical assistance, as did others present who have had experience in tree planting projects. All of these could be included in Improve Montana, Plant a Commemorative Centennial Tree.

AREA CHURCH HISTORIES PUBLISHED

Mondak '89ers have published a booklet containing brief histories of some two dozen churches in the Richland County, Montana area. Many of the churches are pictured in the interesting booklet. It also includes the order of service for the Richland County ecumenical worship service held on June 25.

The interesting histories tell of immigrants who started the churches, some of the charter members. Some of the churches held services in languages other than English. Early day worship services were held in community halls, school class rooms, private homes, wherever they could meet. One group met in the Post Office. Often services were held every other week.

One church of a four-point parish notes that the pastor's salary was $500.00 per year. Times have changed. There are stories of building funds which started with the ladies serving suppers at 25 cents per plate. Some of the churches have changed denominations down through the years, but have never discontinued holding worship services.

"We also do super-natural house calls," one church history states.

One interesting story tells of the early days in the Lonsdale United Methodist church. The tiny congregation decided to build their own church in the fall of 1899 on two acres of land. Cost of the church was $1,290.75. Finished in the fall of 1900, the stone church was dedicated May 19, 1901 free of debt, though 1900 was the driest year in the history of the Yellowstone valley.

Following are excerpts from the dedication of the book.

The brief histories of the various Christian Churches herein do little to speak of the tremendous impact that Christianity has had on the settling of the Richland County area. The effect of a person's faith surfaces in an area in oft-times subtle ways, eventually reflecting itself in a community's spirit, a community's values, a community's character. And most times, chronicling when church buildings were erected, misses the real impact of a community's faith.

A lesson we can all still learn from our ancestors who homesteaded this area and rooted our Christian faith herein: The Church was not for them so much a building, as it was a spirit that lived within them. They brought 'church' with them as they struggled to the area through dust storms and heat...as they rocked a sick child late into the night knowing there was no medical help to be found...through the lean beginnings, and the good years that put away forever thoughts of moving on. They were—each of them—the Church, long before any denomination called a minister, built an edifice, or formed a congregation, great or small.

Today, years later, we carry on in that same spirit, nurturing the same truths, struggling to pass on the same faith to our children, calling upon the same God to help us as did our ancestors. May we, in our time, be sensitive caretakers of the precious gift of faith we have received from our God and our ancestors.

This Centennial Booklet is dedicated to all people of faith in Richland County and especially to the thousands of people who have played a part in keeping the Christian heritage of faith alive. This Centennial Year we thank all the denominations that submitted a short history to be included herein and to all who helped with the Centennial Ecumenical Prayer Celebration.

ST. XAVIER HISTORY RELEASED

St. Xavier, Montana has completed a Centennial project that will be a legacy. It is a 336 page book entitled *Time Never Ending*. Compiled by Esther Kehler, the hard bound book contains history of the community in Big Horn County.

It contains histories, stories from the past, pictures, mostly people, but also of scenery and events, including wagons, cars and equipment of the past. There are nearly 1,000 pictures in the book, and anyone familiar with the area and its people will be amazed with the contents of the book and the quality of the reproductions.

Included are such things as old time weddings of prominent people, newspaper clippings of historical events, St. Xavier Catholic Mission history, St. John's Lutheran Church history, cattle brands, family histories, school histories, early day farming and ranching, a history of irrigation in the area, as well as several pages devoted to Yellowtail Dam. School teachers, their times and places are listed. The sugar beet industry is described. There is a section devoted to military veterans of the area, and another section devoted to "Friends of St. Xavier," the Crow Indians.

And in the back is a place for keeping records of the individual family tree.

It is truly a remarkable accomplishment, one of which the entire community of St. Xavier can be proud.

TAPE SERIES TO AIR

"Wagons West," a series of 50 tapes of five minutes each, will supply music for Montana's Centennial to radio stations around the state. This Centennial non-profit project is a sanctioned project of Ullman Eye Clinic. The tapes are described as great music, excellent narration and just plain enjoyable listening. The narration describes the trek of the pioneers to Montana.

CENTENNIAL • CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

	Miles City	Miles Community College Anniversary	232-2890
1-10/1	Dillon	Old Book/Manuscript Display	683-5027
1 - 3	Roundup	Cattle Drive Celebration	323-2762
1 - 10/12	Butte	Wildlife Exhibit	494-5595
1 - 4	Roundup	Post Office Celebration	323-2762
2	Virginia City	Fall Horseback Poker Ride	843-5341
2 - 3	Lincoln	Craft Sale	362-4485
2 - 3	Forsyth	Endurance Horse Race	356-2233
2 - 3	Bridger	Fromberg Cent. Labor Day Celebration	662-3334
2 - 3	Lincoln	Celebration Lecture Series	362-4485
2 - 4	Helmville	Rodeo	793-5672
2 - 4	White Sulpher Spgs	Meagher Co. Labor Day Rodeo	542-3918
3 - 10/1	Dillon	Manuscript & Old Book Display	683-5027
3	Dillon	J.C. Rodeo	683-2305
4	Lincoln	History Series & Celebration	362-4485
4	Dillon	Labor Day Parade	683-2305
4 - 9	Roundup-Billings	Great MT Cent. Cattle Drive	265-4383
5 - 9	Circle	Camera Club Photo Show	485-2414
8 - 9	Billings	Exposition	245-4111
8 -10	Lincoln	Corvette Rally	362-4485
8 -10	Bigfork	Cent. Golf Tournament	837-5641
9	Polson	Art Auction	883-9454
9	Circle	Town & Country Day	485-2414
9	Baker	Time Capsule Closing	778-2074
9	Butte	Natl Assn. of Letter Carriers First Issue Stamp Pictorial	494-2107
9 -10	Choteau	Threshing Bee	466-2849
9 -10	St. Regis	Flea Market Rendezvous	
9 -10	Roundup	Horse Endurance Ride	323-2762
10	Forsyth	Buffalo Rifle Shoot	356-2233
10	Bridger	Bridger Cent. Rodeo	662-3216
10	Billings	Railroad Show	373-6429
15	Missoula	Classical Dance Drama Of Indian America	543-6623
15-17	Libby	Nordicfest	293-3391
15-17	Hamilton	State 4-H Horse Show	363-2044
16	Lincoln	Fall Ball Tournament	362-4485
16	St. Ignatious	Day for Friendship Mass/ Pow-Wow/Chuckwagon BBQ	745-4119
16	Baker	X1 Alpha Nu Fall Festival Eastern Star 75th Anniversary	778-3149
16	Gold Creek	Centennial Jamboree	
16	Dillon	Barrett-Peterson Memorial Trap Shoot	683-4923
16	Circle	Richey Festival	485-2414
16 - 17	Missoula	Centennial Heritage Festival– Caras Park	543-6623
16 - 17	Missoula	International Days–Southgate Mall & City-wide	543-6623
21-23	Bozeman	South Montana Angus Tour	587-0543
21-24	Laurel	Herbstfest	628-6587
29-10/1	Great Falls	Octoberfest	452-9992
24	Helmville	Turkey Shoot	
24	Bridger	Family Fun Day	662-3387
27	Libby	Cent. Time Capsule Placement	662-3216
28-30	Chester	W.I.F.E. Convention	292-3524
29-30	Butte	Computer Fair	496-4460
29-11/10	Dillon	Western MT College Fund Drive	683-5511
30	Lincoln	Car Auction	362-4485

OCTOBER

	Miles City	Harvest Festival	232-2890
1	Circle	9th Annual Rattlesnake & Rocky Mtn. Oyster Feed	485-2414
5	Fort Harrison	Veterans Salute to Montana	442-6410
5-7	Lewistown	MT China Painting Convention	538-7347
6	Butte	6th Annual KNOW Seminar– "Women in Montana's History"	723-9101
7	Helena	Centennial Auction	442-4120
12	Billings	American Dance Theater	259-2060
12 - 14	Butte	Tour of Historical Industrial Sites	723-4387
14	Havre	Ag & Ranching in West	265-4383
14	Helena	Military & Civilian Centennial Ball	442-4120
13	Helena	Classical Amer. Indian Dance	443-0287
14-15	Glendive	Style Show	365-5601
15-17	Butte	Art Show, Painting	494-4069
16-17	Havre	Chippewa Cree of Rocky Boy Reservation Annual Council Treaty Conference	295-4355
21	Lincoln	Hunter's Stew	362-4485
24	Great Falls	Cent. Concert, G.F. Symphony	453-4102
29	Glendive	Historic Homes Tour	365-5601
31	Lincoln	P.T.A. Carnival	362-4485
	Dillon	Western MT College Homecoming	
	Harlem	Play/Centennial Monument	352-2201

Montana Statehood Centennial Office
P.O. Box 1989, Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

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Helena, MT 59620

The Centennial Wagon Train Arrives in Helena

The Centennial Float in the Official Centennial Parade in Great Falls